



Susan Bysiewicz
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
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- STATEMENT FROM SECRETARY OF THE STATE SUSAN BYSIEWICZ -

AFTER 5 YEARS OF DEBATE, IT'S TIME TO PASS ETHICS REFORM

Hartford: Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz called on legislative leaders to reach a compromise and pass an ethics reform package this week.

Statement from Secretary Bysiewicz: "In just over a week, the 2008 legislative session will wrap up. Our lawmakers have a historic chance RIGHT NOW to put into effect meaningful ethics reform that many, including me, believe is long overdue."

"In recent years we have seen a governor, a state treasurer, a state senator and two mayors – politicians of both parties – go to prison for corrupt acts committed while they were in office."

"We have seen the public trust violated repeatedly by those who took an oath to uphold it. Yet, the taxpayers of this state will continue to pay public pensions to these corrupt officials. How can anyone go home to their constituents and say this makes sense?"

"There is a crisis of confidence in our state. And while we have taken significant steps towards restoring the public's trust in state contracting and our campaign finance system, our work is not yet complete."

“Every day I hear from citizens who have lost trust in their elected officials and who question whether those officials are putting the interests of Connecticut citizens ahead of their own.”

“All too often, I hear from constituents who question whether they should put their faith and trust in a system that seems to apply a different set of rules to those in power or perhaps where no rules apply at all.”

“It’s time to send a signal that if you violate the law and use the power of your public office for personal gain, you are jeopardizing your pension and the economic well-being of your family. Crimes have consequences. And taxpayers should not be asked to foot the bill for public officials who have lost their right to serve due to corrupt acts that they alone were responsible for committing.”

“Let me be clear: before I close the session next Wednesday at midnight, I am urging the legislature and the governor to take the historic step, reach a compromise, and enact comprehensive ethics reform at all levels of government.”

“The people of Connecticut demand no less.”